

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 9 and 19 were objected to based on use of the terms "first cell processing strategy" and "second cell processing strategy." Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vuong (US 6,765,912) in view of Chang (US 6,728,249). Claims 21-25 were allowed.

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to correct various informalities.

Claims 9 and 19 are believed to be clear when read in light of the specification, which states that different cell processing strategies are used to process different types of ATM cells according to their payloads. It doesn't matter what cell processing strategies are actually used. The important feature is that the cell processing strategies are payload type specific. Any conventional cell processing strategy consistent with the specified ATM cell payload types would be within the scope of claims 9 and 19. Claims 10 and 20 contain similar limitations ("third cell processing strategy").

Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to clarify that the translating of cell headers of ATM cells according to a predetermined translation scheme is based on cell payload type and that the translated cell headers are applied to the ATM cells as ATM cell headers and contain fields that determine how the ATM cells will be processed. The ATM cells are forwarded with the translated ATM cell headers applied thereto.

The Vuong reference does not disclose or suggest ATM cell header translation, as noted in the Office Action. However, neither does Chang. Fig. 3 and column 7, line 29 – column 8, line 59 of Chang (portions of which are cited in the Office Action) are directed to packet flow to

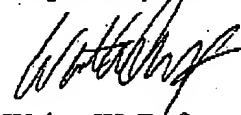
an ATM network rather than *from* an ATM network as recited in claims 1-20. This portion of Chang discusses performing a lookup using an Ethernet packet header to make determinations about packet destination. This is analogous to a traditional routing function. ATM cell headers are not discussed in this section.

Figs. 4-5 and column 8, line 60 – column 10, line 3 of Chang do address the handling of ATM cells received from an ATM network. However, there is no mention of ATM cell header translation wherein an incoming ATM cell has its header replaced with a translated ATM cell header that is based on cell payload, and wherein the ATM cell is forwarded with the translated ATM cell header. Nor does this section of Chang discuss payload-specific processing of a translated ATM cell header. Instead, as shown in steps 104 and 106, Chang uses a scheme wherein the cell header is read for handling information, but this is not the ATM cell header translation/applying and ATM cell forwarding recited in amended claims 1 and 11.

As such, it is believed that independent claims 1 and 11 patentably distinguish over the art of record. Dependent claims 2-10 and 12-20 should likewise be allowable for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that all rejections be withdrawn and that Notices of Allowability and Allowance be duly issued.

Respectfully submitted,



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